



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney David C. Weiss  
District of Delaware**

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CONTACT: EDWARD J. MCANDREW  
PHONE: (302) 573-6277, EXT. 130  
FAX: (302) 573-6220

## **WILMINGTON MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS OF INCARCERATION FOR USING MYSPACE TO MEET 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL FOR SEX**

David Hart, age 37, of Wilmington, Delaware, was sentenced today to 10 years of incarceration for Transportation of a Minor with Intent to Engage in Prohibited Sexual Conduct, in violation of federal law. Hart also was sentenced to 5 years of supervised release, and he will be required to register as a sex offender in any jurisdiction in which he lives, works, or attends school. David C. Weiss, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced the sentence following a hearing in the United States District Court for the District of Delaware.

According to statements made at hearings and documents filed in court, Hart met a 14-year-old girl from Allentown, Pennsylvania online on December 27, 2008. Using MySpace and cell phones, Hart and the girl arranged to meet on the morning of January 6, 2009, at the girl's middle school bus stop. That morning, Hart drove from his Wilmington residence to Allentown, where he picked up the 14-year-old girl and her 12-year-old brother. Hart then drove the children back to his Wilmington residence, where Hart engaged in sexual intercourse with the girl, while the boy played video games in an adjoining room.

The assistant principal of the children's school learned from another student that the girl and her brother had traveled to Delaware with a man they knew only as "Dave." School officers alerted the children's guardian and the police. At approximately 11:00 a.m. on January 6, 2009, that student

called the 14-year-old girl on her cell phone to inform her that school officials knew that she had traveled to Wilmington with “Dave.” The student also reported that school was closing early due to inclement weather in Allentown.

Learning of this, Hart drove the children back to Allentown and left them off on a street corner near their home. During the ride back to Allentown, Hart called his cousin and instructed him to delete his MySpace account, which Hart had used to communicate with his victim.

Following the hearing, United States Attorney David C. Weiss stated, “Social networking websites have become online playgrounds for children. With just a few mouse clicks, child predators are in the middle of these playgrounds. In a short period of time, they can go from behind the keyboard to physical contact with a child. It is our hope that today’s sentence raises the level of awareness of this danger in the community and serves as a warning to those who choose to engage in this conduct.”

For further information, please contact Assistant United States Attorney Edward J. McAndrew, at 302-573-6277.

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